

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLASSIFIED

C95

PAGE 01  
ACTION-ARA-00

TEGUCI 16546

01 OF 02 292331Z

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 H-01 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-09 L-03  
PM-10 PA-01 OMB-01 SIL-01 INRE-00 USIE-00 SP-02  
SNP-01 PRS-01 DS-01 DSE-00 SCT-02 /044 W  
-----163641 292351Z /61

R

O 292323Z OCT 86  
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5177  
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ L SECTION 01 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 16546

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, MARR, NU, HO,  
SUBJECT: PUBLIC REACTION TO INCIDENTS ON NICARAGUAN  
- BORDER

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.

REF: (A) TEGUCIGALPA 16344 (DTG 272324Z OCT 86) ☒ Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny ☒ Declassify  
(B) TEGUCIGALPA 16422 (DTG 282227Z OCT 86) Date 2/27/02 Exemption \_\_\_\_\_  
(C) TEGUCIGALPA 16399 (DTG 281934Z OCT 86)

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY. DURING THE LAST 48 HOURS NEWSPAPER AND RADIO COVERAGE OF INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE ALONG THE LAS TROJES BORDER WITH NICARAGUA HAS INCREASED DRAMATICALLY (REFTELS A AND B). MORE THAN TWO DOZEN ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS IN THE FOUR MAJOR NEWSPAPERS OF OCTOBER 28 AND 29 HAVE BEEN DEDICATED NOT ONLY TO INCREASED TENSIONS ALONG THE BORDER BUT TO THE WHOLE "CONTRA" ISSUE, INCLUDING EXTENSIVE REPRINTS OF U.S. NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE ARTICLES ON THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING THE TRAINING OF DEMOCRATIC FORCES WITHIN AND WITHOUT THE U.S. (REFTEL C). END SUMMARY.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 02 TEGUCI 16546 01 OF 02 292331Z

3. ALL MAJOR HONDURAN NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO NEWS PROGRAMS OVER THE LAST 48 HOURS HAVE SATURATED THE PUBLIC WITH BULLETINS AND COMMENTARY RELATED TO INCREASING TENSIONS IN THE LAS TROJES AREA PRECIPITATED BY AN APPARENT ESCALATION OF SANDINISTA HOSTILITIES AGAINST CIVILIAN AND MILITARY PERSONNEL ON THE BORDER LINE. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF LEFTIST/LIBERAL "EL TIEMPO" NEWSPAPER AND THE LEFT-LEANING GADFLY "RADIO AMERICA", THE HONDURAN MEDIA IS DEMONSTRATING OUTRAGE AT "UNPROVOKED BELLIGERENCY" BY THE SANDINISTAS WHO ARE "DISREGARDING EFFORTS BY THE AZCONA GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN OPEN AVENUES TO PEACE WITH MANAGUA."

UNCLASSIFIED

CONSERVATIVE NEWSPAPERS "EL HERALDO" AND "LA PRENSA", FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE AUGMENTED EXTENSIVE REPORTING ON RECENT BORDER INCIDENTS NEAR LAS TROJES (REFTELS) WITH EDITORIALS CALLING FOR DECISIVE ACTION BY THE GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY TO PROTECT THE LIVES AND PROPERTY OF INNOCENT CIVILIANS LIVING AND TRAVELING THE BORDER AREA. EXCLAIMS ONE SUCH EDITORIAL: "SOMETHING MUST BE DONE--AND FAST--OR THE PRECARIOUS PEACE OF THE BORDER WILL DISSIPATE RAPIDLY TO BE REPLACED BY THE LAW OF THE JUNGLE. . .NO ONE WANTS A WAR, BUT WE CAN'T CONTINUE TO LIVE UNDER SUCH TERROR."

UNCLASSIFIED

4. MOST OF THE NEWSPAPERS REPORTED ON MEETINGS HELD OCTOBER 28 IN THE SIXTH BATTALION HEADQUARTERS AT EL PARAISO AND THE 110TH BRIGADE IN OJO DE AGUA BETWEEN MILITARY COMMANDERS AND LOCAL CITIZENS FROM THE BORDER AREA. THE ARMED FORCES PLEDGED TO PROTECT HONDURAN INTERESTS IN THE ZONE IN COOPERATION WITH THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS, WHOSE HEAD, JUAN FERNANDO LOPEZ, ALSO MET WITH CITIZEN GROUPS AND COMMITTED HIS ROAD-BUILDING

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 03 TEGUCI 16546 01 OF 02 292331Z

CREWS TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION OF AN EMERGENCY ACCESS ROUTE TO THE LAS TROJES AREA NORTH OF THE PRESENT ROAD THAT IN SOME SPOTS LITERALLY SITS ON THE BORDER LINE. IN THE INTERIM, TRANSPORTATION WORKERS AND MERCHANTS IN THE LAS TROJES AREA CLAIM THEY WILL REFUSE TO CONTINUE THEIR OPERATIONS UNTIL GREATER SECURITY IS PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT. MANY PEOPLE FROM THE ZONE REPORTEDLY HAVE PACKED UP AND ARE EVACUATING THE LAS TROJES AREA.

5. THE VOICES OF DISSENT IN "EL TIEMPO" AND "RADIO AMERICA", MEANWHILE, HAVE TAKEN THE LINE THAT IT IS THE "CONTRAS" NOT THE SANDINISTAS WHO ARE GUILTY FOR INCIDENTS ALONG THE FRONTIER. "EL TIEMPO" ARGUES, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT NICARAGUAN REBELS CARRY THE SAME ARMS AS THE SANDINISTAS AND ARE SET ON DESTROYING THE TRANQUILITY OF THE ZONE IN ORDER TO PUSH HONDURAS INTO A WAR WITH NICARAGUA. BOTH "EL TIEMPO" AND "RADIO AMERICA" ULTIMATELY BLAME THE UNITED STATES FOR BORDER TENSIONS, SUGGESTING THAT THE INCIDENTS ARE STAGED IN COMPLICITY WITH HONDURAN GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY OFFICIALS BENT ON BREAKING RELATIONS WITH MANAGUA.

6. COMMENT. THE DRAMATIC ESCALATION OF MEDIA REPORTING AND COMMENTARY AGAINST THE SANDINISTAS IS IN STARK CONTRAST TO THE ALMOST TOTAL SILENCE ON THE ISSUE FROM GOVERNMENT OR MILITARY SPOKESMEN. THE NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO STATIONS ALSO HAVE TAKEN THE LEAD IN SOUNDING OUT PUBLIC OPINION WITH INFORMAL STREET POLLING AND CALL-IN SURVEYS. THE CONTRARY APPROACH TAKEN BY THE LEFT-LEANING MEDIA, MEANWHILE, APPEARS SOMEWHAT CONTRIVED TO US BECAUSE IT MIRRORS ALMOST EXACTLY RECENT PRESS STATEMENTS BY THE NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR TO HONDURAS DANIEL ABUD VIVAS THAT ALLEGATIONS OF

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NNNN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 01 TEGUCI 16546 02 OF 02 292331Z  
ACTION ARA-00

INFO	LOG-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	SS-00	CIAE-00
	DODE-00	H-01	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	SSO-00	HA-09	L-03
	PM-10	PA-01	OMB-01	SIL-01	INRE-00	USIE-00	SP-02
	SNP-01	PRS-01	DS-01	DSE-00	SCT-02	/044 W	
					-----163650	292351Z	/61

O 292323Z OCT 86  
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5178  
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 16546

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, MARR, NU, HO,  
SUBJECT: PUBLIC REACTION TO INCIDENTS ON NICARAGUAN

SANDINISTA INCIDENTS ON THE BORDER ARE FICTIONAL  
CONTRIVANCES OF THE CIA-BACKED "CONTRAS" IN CONSPIRACY  
WITH HONDURAN AUTHORITIES. IT IS ENTIRELY PLAUSIBLE  
THAT SUCH DISTORTIONS BY THE LEFT ARE BEING DIRECTLY  
PLANTED BY SANDINISTA AGENTS OF INFLUENCE OR THE  
NICARAGUAN EMBASSY ITSELF. END COMMENT.

(DRAFTED:POL:BDMORAN) PASTORINO

UNCLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~